



Attorney Docket No. FL/128

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Banter et al.

Serial No.: 09/348,416

Filed: July 7, 1999

For: Acoustic Protective Cover Assembly

) Group Art Unit:

) Examiner:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231 on July 6, 2000

*Beverly F. McLennan*  
Beverly F. McLennan

*July 6, 2000*  
(date of mailing document)

Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 10 and 12 as follows:

1. (amended) A sound-transmissive protective cover assembly, comprising:
- (a) a microporous membrane supported around its periphery by at least one adhesive support system such that at least a portion of said membrane is free to move in response to acoustic energy, said assembly having [(a) a microporous membrane having first and second surfaces and a perimeter defined by its edges; and
  - (b) a support system having first and second surfaces and an outer perimeter and an inner perimeter;
- wherein the first surface of the support system is bonded to the perimeter of the first surface of the microporous membrane to form a bonded outer region within the perimeter and, surrounded by the bonded outer region, an unbounded inner region;
- wherein the membrane is free to move independently in response to acoustic energy passing therethrough, and thereby minimally attenuating the acoustic energy;
- wherein the assembly has] an instantaneous water entry pressure of at least one meter water column and [no more than a 3 dB] an overall

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